

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 613

Honoring the life and work of William Wilberforce and commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2006

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and work of William Wilberforce and commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain.

Whereas William Wilberforce, born August 25, 1759, used his position as a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons to stop the slave trade in Great Britain, proclaiming, “I [will] never rest until I have effected [slavery’s] abolition.”;

Whereas William Wilberforce displayed remarkable perserverance in answering the call of social justice and fought the slave trade in Great Britain and slavery itself for 46 years, despite the national and personal financial interests aligned against him, the public criticism and slander he endured, and the stress and pain placed on his family;

Whereas William Wilberforce rested his political career on the ideals of stewardship, respect for the rights of others, advancing the views of others, and promoting the happiness of others, and proclaimed, “Let every one . . . regulate his conduct by the golden rule . . . and the path of duty will be clear before him.”;

Whereas William Wilberforce defended the rights of slaves who had no voice in the legislature of Great Britain and committed himself to sweeping social reform in his country;

Whereas William Wilberforce joined with Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Thomas Clarkson, Olaudah Equiano, Harriet Martineau, Hannah More, and other great abolitionists in Great Britain;

Whereas William Wilberforce inspired abolitionists in the United States, including William Lloyd Garrison, John Greenleaf Whittier, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Harriet Beecher Stowe;

Whereas William Wilberforce also influenced John Quincy Adams, James Monroe, John Jay, Abraham Lincoln, and Benjamin Franklin, along with many leaders in the African-American community, among them William Wells Brown, Paul Cuffe, and Benjamin Hughes;

Whereas Frederick Douglass said, “it was the faithful, persistent and enduring enthusiasm of . . . William Wilberforce . . . and [his] noble co-workers, that finally thawed the British heart into sympathy for the slave, and moved the strong arm of the government in mercy to put an end to his bondage.”; and

Whereas March 25, 2007 marks the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) honors the life and work of William Wilber-
3 force; and

4 (2) commemorates the 200th anniversary of the
5 abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain and its
6 impact on similar efforts in the United States.

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